

the tail. The short pig-like tail, free of the brush or hair, and the pink and mangy fleshy appearance of the flanks and stomach gave the dogs quite a revolting appearance.

HONNAMETTI ESTATE,

ATTIKAN P.O., Via MYSORE,

R. C. MORRIS.

February 6, 1937.

VI.—NOTES ON HARDWICKE'S HEDGEHOG
(*HEMIECHINUS COLLARIS* GRAY & HARDW.).

During a visit to the Great Rann of Kutch, in October 1935, I collected about ten living specimens of *Hemiechinus collaris* at Kawra, Pachum Island. This hedgehog is quite plentiful around the village.

Most of the specimens, I discovered later, were pregnant females. From Kawra to Bhuj, a distance of some fifty miles over roughish tracks, the hedgehogs travelled in a sac on the floor of the car. On arrival at Bhuj they were transferred to a packing case pending my departure for Bombay. To my surprise, the next morning after our arrival at Bhuj, I discovered that the females had discharged their respective foetuses. No two of the foetuses appeared to be of the same term. The only reason I could discover for these wholesale abortions was probably the car drive!

An interesting point emerges from this incident. According to Dobson (*vide F.B.I.*, Mammalia, p. 214) the number of young at a birth never exceeds four. But what is the 'normal' number? From the premature births referred to above and the disparity of age observed in the foetuses, it would appear that only one at a birth is the 'normal'! If there were more than one, surely there would have been some foetuses of the same age, and again the number of foetuses would have exceeded the number of hedgehogs in the box! This was not the case.

Hedgehogs appear to be most numerous in the neighbourhood of villages. The reason for this probably being the nature of their diet. They live on almost any refuse. Small mammals, birds, batrachians and reptiles also form part of the menu. In captivity they drink milk readily. These animals soon become quite tame even when caught old. They fight much when several are kept in the same cage. The usual point of attack is the legs and sometimes the face. A hedgehog will catch the leg of an opponent and immediately curl up and the leg is usually bitten off—the antagonist is killed eventually piecemeal. Under stress of excitement or pain the call is very kitten-like.

BOMBAY NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY,

BOMBAY.

C. McCANN.

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